

Message Text

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FOR ALAN BERLIND - LOS DELEGATION

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED FEBRUARY 14, 1978
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 02510

DEPT PASS ALSO DOT, COAST GUARD, EPA, NOAA, CEQ AND
MARAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS PORG, IMCO
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TANKER SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION - INTERIM REPORT

1. AFTER FOUR DAYS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATION, THAT BEGAN
THURSDAY MORNINQ, FEBRUARY 9 AND ENDED VERY LATE ON
SUNDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 12, A COMPROMISE PACKAGE WAS
REACHED (COVERING DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND INERT GAS
SYSTEMS) BETWEEN THE GROUP OF MARITIME STATES, LED BY
THE U.S., WHO SUPPORTED THE U.S. TSPP PROPOSALS, AND
THE MUCH LARGER QROUP OF LDC'S AND MARITIME STATES, LED
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BY THE U.K., WHO WERE RESISTINQ ADOPTION OF ANY OF THE
HIGH COST ITEMS IN THE U.S. PROPOSALS. THE
COMPROMISE PACKAGE WAS APPROVED AT THE COMMITTEE LEVEL
ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 AND WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE
ADOPTED BY THE FINAL PLENARY LATER IN THE WEEK. UNDER
THE COMPROMISE ESSENTIALLY ALL OF THE U.S. PROPOSALS
WERE ACCEPTED FOR NEW SHIPS. FOR EXISTING SHIPS CRUDE

OIL WASHING (COW) WAS ACCEPTED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SEGREGATED BALLAST TANKS (SBT), AND THE LOWER TONNAGE LIMIT WAS SET AT 40,000 DWT.

2. THE COMPROMISE "PACKAGE" IS AN ELABORATE BLEND OF PROTOCOLS AND RESOLUTIONS THAT WILL PERMIT THE COAST GUARD TO MEET THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS OF MARCH 17, 1977, WITHOUT DOING HARM TO THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COOPERATION THROUGH IMCO.

3. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT FULLY SATISFACTORY MEASURES WILL BE ADOPTED REGARDING DUAL RADARS, COLLISION AVOIDANCE ASSISTANCE DEVICES, STEERING GEAR IMPROVEMENT AND STRONG INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES.

4. A DETAILED REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE AND OF THE COMPROMISE WILL FOLLOW.

5. U.S. DELEGATION SENDS WITH BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY.
REATOR UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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